

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

1. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon [[a data structure,
5the data structure having]] a computer-readable program code comprising a sequence of
instructions which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform steps
comprising:

forming a first user-defined data field structure, or first "UDF",~~the first UDF associated with a~~
~~record stored in a software table,~~ the first UDF comprising:

10 [[an]] a record identifier datafield [[of the record;],
[[an]] a UDF identifier datafield [[of the first UDF;]], and
a first datafield[.];
storing a record identifier in the record identifier datafield;
storing a UDF identifier in the UDF identifier datafield; and

15 storing an additional information in the first datafield, whereby the first datafield is
associated with the record and the additional information [[may be]] stored in the first datafield
[[and]] may be associated with the record and without modification of the table.

2. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein [[the computer-
20readable medium]] the computer-readable program code further comprises an additional
sequence of instructions which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform
steps comprising: [[further comprises]] forming a metadata, the metadata~~associated with the first~~

UDF, ~~and the metadata~~ comprising a classification of data type, the classification of data type distinguishing the data type of the additional information stored in the first datafield; and associating the metadata with the first UDF.

53. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein [[the computer-readable medium]] the computer-readable program code further comprises an additional sequence of instructions which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform steps comprising: [[further comprises]] forming a metadata, ~~the metadata associated with the first UDF, and~~ the metadata comprising a name, the name associated with the first UDF and the
10 name for use in software operations accessing the first UDF; and
associate the metadata with the first UDF.

4. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein [[the computer-readable medium]] the computer-readable program code further comprises an additional sequence of instructions which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform steps comprising: [[further comprises]] forming a metadata, [[the metadata associated with the first UDF, and]] the metadata comprising a title, the title associated with the first UDF and the name for use in a visual display of the additional information of the first UDF; and
20 associating the metadata with the first UDF.

5. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium [[data structure]] of claim 1, wherein the
[[data structure further comprises]] the computer-readable program code further comprises an
additional sequence of instructions which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to
perform steps comprising:

5forming a class plurality of UDF's and wherein the first datafield comprises a class identifier of
the class plurality of UDF's, and each UDF of the class plurality [[comprising]] includes: the
class identifier; a unique identifier of the UDF of the class plurality of UDF's; and a datafield,
whereby each datafield of the class plurality of UDF's may be associated with the first UDF and
therefrom associated with the record, and information may be stored in the plurality of datafields
10of the class plurality of UDF's and associated with the first UDF, and therefrom the information
of the plurality of datafields of the class plurality of UDF's may be associated with the record and
without modification of the table.

6. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium [[data structure]] of claim 1, wherein the
15[[data structure further comprises]] computer-readable program code further comprises an
additional sequence of instructions which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to
perform steps comprising:

forming a plurality of UDF's; [[, each UDF comprising:]]
storing an identifier of the first UDF in the record identifier datafield of each of the plurality of
20UDF's;

storing a unique UDF identifier [[of one]] in the record identifier datafield of each of the
plurality of UDF's; and

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storing information in each of the first ~~[[a]]~~ datafields of each of the plurality of UDF's, whereby the plurality of first datafields of each of the plurality of UDF's are associated with the first UDF and information may be stored in the plurality of datafields and associated with the first UDF, and therefrom the information of the plurality of datafields may be associated with the record and without modification of the table.

7. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium ~~[[data structure]]~~ of claim 1, wherein the computer-readable program code directs the computer to store ~~[[identifier of the record is]]~~ a pointer in the record identifier datafield for use as the record identifier.

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8. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium ~~[[data structure]]~~ of claim 1, wherein ~~[[the data structure comprises]]~~ the computer-readable program code further comprises an additional sequence of instructions which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform steps comprising:

15 ~~forming a plurality UDF's of user-defined fields, or plurality of "UDF's", each UDF associated with a same record stored in [[a]] the table, and each UDF comprising: an identifier of the record; a unique identifier of one of the plurality of UDF's; and a datafield, whereby the plurality of first datafields of the plurality of UDF's are associated with the same record and information may be stored in the plurality of datafields and the information of the plurality of datafields may~~
20 ~~be associated with the same record and without modification of the table.~~

9. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the computer-readable program code further comprises an additional sequence of instructions which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform steps comprising: ~~having stored thereon a data structure, the~~ forming a data structure having a record, a List and a list user-defined field, or
5 "List UDF", the List UDF relatable to the record, and the List UDF comprising: an identifier of the List UDF; an identifier of the List; and a data address of the List, whereby an information stored at the data address of the List is associated with the List UDF and the information may be stored or modified at the data address of the List, and the information may be associated with the record and without modification of the table.

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10. (currently amended) A computer system comprising:

a controller;

a memory, the memory communicatively coupled with the controller and the memory storing a software database and a software database manager;

15 [[a]] the software database having data organized into a table of records;

a user-defined field stored in the memory for associating a datum with a record of the table, the user-defined field having a UDF identifier and a record identifier;

a metadata stored in the memory and associated with the user-defined field and the metadata specifying the data type of the datum; and

20 [[a]] the database manager software program for [[merging]] directing the controller to merge the user-defined field with the record to associate the datum of the user-defined field with the record of the table.